concerned Saudi authorities is drawn to such representations including the one referred to above.

(f) and (g) The Director, International Indian School (IIS) Jeddah completed his contractual period on March 31, 2004. The Managing Committee of the School and the Higher Board of Indian Schools constituted by the Ministry of Education, Saudi Arabia did not extend the contract. Indian Embassy in Riyadh had no authority in the matter.

Kashmir issue in SAARC conference

944. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the then Prime Minister and his counterpart Pakistani Prime Minister did not raise the Kashmir issue during SAARC Conference in Pakistan;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether both sides have agreed to overlook Kashmir issue for confidence building?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) and (b) There is no provision in the SAARC Charter for discussions on bilateral issues. On the margins of the SAARC Summit that was held in Islamabad on January 4-6, 2004, Prime Minister of India met his Pakistani counterpart and President Musharraf of Pakistan. In the Joint Press Statement issued on January 6, 2004, it was elaborated that Prime Minister of India in his meeting with President Musharraf had said that in order to take forward and sustain the dialogue process, violence, hostility and terrorism must be prevented. President Musharraf reassured Prime Minister of India that he will not permit any territory under Pakistan's control to be used to support terrorism in any manner. To carry the process of normalisation forward the President of Pakistan and the Prime Minister of India agreed to commence the process of the Composite Dialogue in February 2004. The two leaders expressed confidence that the resumption of the Composite Dialogue would lead to peaceful settlement of all bilateral issues, including Jammu & Kashmir, to the satisfaction of both sides.

(c) India is committed to a peaceful settlement of all bilateral issues with Pakistan.